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American Folklife Center's Concert Series

Library of Congress
INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: The 15th anniversary of the Neptune Plaza Concert Series opened April 23, 1992, with Edwin Colón Zayas y su Taller Campesino's traditional string music of Puerto Rico. *Photo by Reid Baker*

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Joseph Stalin (left, at table) and Lavrenti Beria (in glasses), a Soviet political leader and official in the secret police, enjoying a rest at a *dacha* in the 1930s; Stalin's daughter Svetlana is on Beria's lap. (The man in background is unidentified.)

Recent Revelations:

Secret Soviet Documents Unveiled at Library

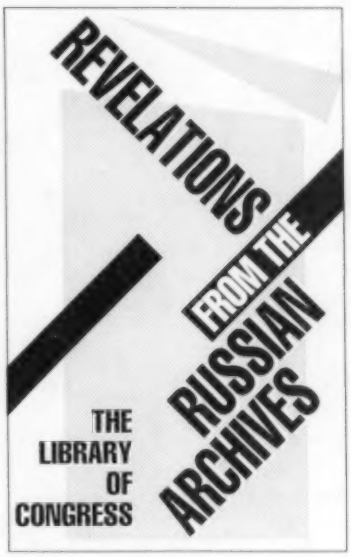
Just before press time a news conference in Madison Memorial Hall was held. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, and Rudolph G. Pikhoia, chairman of the Committee on Archival Affairs of the Russian Federation, discussed the new exhibition "Revelations from the Russian Archives," which opened at the Library June 17.

The exhibition of approximately 300 previously secret Soviet documents, photographs and films is the first such exhibition in the West. It sheds new light on some of the major events of the 20th century, from the Russian Revolution to recent times. Included in the exhibit are materials relating to such topics as Stalin's reign of terror, the gulag system, censorship, the workings of the secret police, Chernobyl, American POWs and the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

The materials on exhibit were selected in May from several Russian archives, including those of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and the Foreign Ministry, by a team of scholars led by Dr. Billington, in collaboration with Dr. Pikhoia. (A full report will appear in a future issue.)

Dr. Billington and Dr. Pikhoia have formed an international advisory committee on the disposition of the archives of the former Soviet Union. Dr. Billington, who will chair the committee, began discussions with Dr. Pikhoia in October 1991. Don W. Wilson, Archivist of the United States, has collaborated with the Librarian on the American side.

Exhibit hours are Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday–Sunday 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. The exhibit will run through July 16 only.



Mona Van Duyn Appointed Poet Laureate:
Iowa Native Is Sixth to Hold Position

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has appointed Mona Van Duyn of St. Louis, Mo., to be the Library's sixth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

She will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library's annual literary series in October. Ms. Van Duyn succeeds Robert Penn Warren, Richard Wilbur, Howard Nemerov, Mark Strand and, most recently, Joseph Brodsky.

Said Dr. Billington, "I look forward to welcoming Ms. Van Duyn to the Library and I am particularly pleased to have a distinguished poet of such wide range joining us to promote public awareness of poetry and literature."

The first woman in the post since "poet laureate" was added in 1985 to the title, Ms. Van Duyn succeeds six women, all major poets, who served in the earlier, equally prestigious consultant role: Leonie Adams, Louise Bogan, Elizabeth Bishop, Josephine Jacobsen, Maxine Kumin and Gwendolyn Brooks.

Photo by Miriam Berkley, courtesy Knopf

Ms. Van Duyn will advise the Library on literary matters, including its literature collections and its audio and video tape archive, and participate in its annual series of free public readings by other distinguished authors.

Born in Iowa, Ms. Van Duyn earned her B.S. and M.A. degrees at the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa, respectively, and has received a number of honorary doctorates. From 1947 to 1967, she coedited and copublished *Perspective: A Quarterly of Literature* and from 1950 to 1967, was lecturer in English at University College, Washington University. She has also held distinguished lectureships at the Salzburg (Austria) Seminar in American Studies, the Sewanee Writers Conference, the Breadloaf Writing Conference and the Hurst Visiting Professorship at Washington University.

Ms. Van Duyn's first book of poems was *Valentines to the Wide World* (1959). She has subsequently published *A Time of Bees* (1964), *To See, To Take* (1970), *Bedtime Stories* (1972), *Merciful Disguises* (1973), *Letters from a Father and Other Poems* (1983) and *Near Changes* (1990). Two new books will appear early in 1993, *Firefall: Poems* and *If It Be Not I: Collected Poems, 1959–1982.*

The Poet Laureate-designate has won several awards from universities, magazines and arts organiza-

(Cont. on p. 296)

Nancy Ferguson Bush Bids Farewell to LC:
Held Public Affairs Officer's Post Since 1981

Presenting her with a career Superior Service Award on April 21, Dr. Billington praised Nancy F. Bush for her "calm and good sense" and for sustaining LC's credibility with the press.

Ms. Bush thanked those who bade her farewell. She noted that, while Daniel J. Boorstin remarked upon his retirement as Librarian of Congress that he was "stepping down," she was "stepping out."

As the public affairs officer, she emphasized openness, coordination and detailed preparation for "big" events. She established close ties

with Washington news people and the library press.

Ms. Bush left an indelible mark on the Library by launching the "Tour of the Library of Congress" videotape for the Visitor Orientation Center, LC's award-winning film, "Memory and Imagination" (shown on almost 100 PBS TV stations in April), and a pilot on-line LC Electronic News Service.

Ms. Bush also received a retirement certificate and a gift from the Cultural Affairs staff.

James W. McClung is currently serving as the acting Public Affairs Officer.

Neptune Plaza Concert Series:
Fifteen Years of Musical Diversity

by James Hardin

Thea Caemmerer has two telephone numbers for the U.S. Weather Bureau, and one of them reaches a real live meteorologist. By 10:00 a.m., on the third Thursday of the month, from April until October, she must determine whether the American Folklife Center's outdoor concert will, indeed, take place outdoors.

Ms. Caemmerer is the center's public events coordinator, and the Neptune Plaza Concert Series is one of her chief responsibilities. On sunny days, the popular series attracts Library employees, congressional staffers, tourists and devotees of the style of music being presented. Many in the audience have been notified via flyers and phone calls; they bring their lunches, sit on the steps of the Library's Jefferson Building or at the picnic tables on either side of the plaza, and look across the stage to the U.S. Capitol and its lovely wooded grounds. They listen, applaud, tap their feet and sometimes get up to dance.

Bluegrass and gospel are staples of the six-event season, but the hallmark is cultural diversity, the presentation of many different musical traditions. Since the series began in 1977, audiences have been entertained by Andean singers, Egyptian, flamenco, Polish and Hungarian dancers, blues guitarists, African drummers and bands representing Cajun, zydeco, klezmer, Indonesian, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Swiss, Irish and many other cultural traditions.

The center's goal is restricted by two considerations, one financial, the other philosophical. "The series has a modest budget," says Ms. Caemmerer. "We book local groups

Mattie Johnson & Stars of Faith sing gospel music, Aug. 20, 1987. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Hethu'shka (Warrior Society) from the Omaha Tribe in Macy, Neb., Aug. 22, 1985. *Photo by Reid Baker*

who don't have travel expenses. But to get groups from outside the area, we have to piggyback, arrange for our noontime concert when they are in town to play evening concerts elsewhere. We hope the prestige of the Library of Congress and a congressional audience will entice them."

The second consideration pertains to the educational mission of AFC to present authentic folk music; that is, traditional music that comes from a community and is played for that community. The series is wary of folk music interpreters who are not themselves steeped in the traditions they represent. The distinction is sometimes tricky.

Henry Sapoznik of New York City, who performed May 17, 1990, at the Library with his band Klezmer Plus, began his musical career playing "old-timey" southern music. When told by another performer that he should be playing the music of his own community, he began to investigate his Jewish heritage. Conducting oral histories in retirement homes, talking to older musicians and listening to recordings, he discovered klezmer, the Jewish secular music that is a mix of European classical and Eurasian folk styles—with some American influences added for good measure. The band he brought to the Library included banjo, saxophone, drums, clarinet and keyboard. While Mr. Sapoznik himself was not the vehicle of an unbroken tradition, his band was judged appropriate for the concert series.

Musical performance has a long history at the Library. On Oct. 23, 1924, Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, a musician and philanthropist whose particular interest was chamber music, wrote to Librarian Herbert Putnam, proposing a "comprehensive plan . . . toward establishing in our Government a permanent musical influence." In the proposal were plans for "erecting an auditorium in connection with the Music Division," endowing a foundation to assist the art of music in several specific ways, and doing "any and all other lawful acts and things designed to promote the lawful purposes of the Music Division of the Library of Congress."

The interests and "lawful purposes" of the Music Division were not limited to the European, academic tradition, however. During his tenure as chief, Carl Engel appointed Robert Winslow Gordon "specialist and consultant in the field of Folk Song and Literature," on July 1, 1928. Engel was particularly interested in the study and analysis of music. He envisioned nothing less than a department of musicology at the Library, with postgraduate courses and research, and he wanted Gordon to occupy a chair of American folk music. There was no sense of incompatibility in the Music Division's support of both folk and academic musical traditions. Nineteenth-century romantic nationalism had led many Americans to view folk music as a resource and indicator of cultural distinctiveness.

Robert Gordon had been inspired by his Harvard College mentors, Barrett Wendall and George Lyman Kittredge, two influential figures in American folklore scholarship. They taught him that American traditional song had value in its own right. In 1917, when Gordon left Harvard to accept a teaching position at the University of California at Berkeley, the country was just beginning to value its own literature and culture.

It was Gordon's dream to collect the whole body of American folk song, and he was eager to have the support of the Library in funding his work. Misunderstanding and disagreement eventually ended Gordon's association with the Library, but his legacy to the nation is a collection of song and spoken word that is the basis of one of the largest collections of ethnographic material in the world. No longer limited to either song or American cultural materials, the collection is now called the Archive of Folk Culture.

The first presentation of folk musicians at the Library was on Dec. 20, 1940, part of a four-concert program in the Coolidge Auditorium commemorating the 75th anniversary of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which ended slavery. The

Golden Gate Quartet, with Josh White on guitar, was featured at "A Program of Negro Folk Song with Commentary." The same year, the head of the Folk Archive, Alan Lomax, organized a concert of folk musicians at the White House. And in 1948 folk song collector Helen Hartness Flanders, wife of Sen. Ralph Flanders of Vermont, presented a lecture and concert of New England balladry with three New England folk singers, again in the Coolidge Auditorium.

The U.S. bicentennial, celebrated during the 1970s, stimulated interest in American traditions throughout the country. In Washington, in 1976, there was a summerlong Festival of American Folklife on the Mall, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. Lobbying efforts in Congress by Archie Green and other supporters of cultural pluralism resulted in the American Folklife Preservation Act, which created the American Folklife Center that same year.

The center was placed in the Library of Congress, where it eventually incorporated the Folk Archive already there. The first (and current) director was Alan Jabbour, who had been head of the archive from 1969 to 1974. A reception in the Library's Great Hall on Feb. 19, 1976, marked the passage of the American Folklife Preservation Act. Performers who took part in the program were the Irish Tradition, the Country Gentleman, Mariachi America, Tony Alderman, Elizabeth Cotten and John Jackson.

In September another concert of folk musicians was held on the Neptune Plaza, just outside the great bronze doors of the front of the Jefferson Building. This time the celebration was billed as a picnic, and it arose from a more general impulse to make the venerable institution a little less intimidating and a little more friendly.

When Daniel J. Boorstin became Librarian in November 1975, he discovered that the Neptune Plaza (named for the Court of Neptune Fountain that fronts the Thomas Jefferson Building) was a much underused resource that afforded wonderful views in all directions. He urged Architect of the Capitol George White to help him furnish the plaza with picnic tables, colorful umbrellas and planters, thus adding a welcoming aspect to the building. (Other such efforts included opening the bronze doors at the main entrance, which had long been closed and locked, and redecorating the adjacent Great Hall.)

There were balloons, popcorn and cotton candy at the event, making it an American celebration appropriate for the bicentennial. The performers were veteran blues singer and pianist Wilbert "Big Chief" Ellis of Birmingham, Ala., with James Bellman on electric bass; and guitarist-singer John "Bowling Green" Cephas of Woodford, Va., accompanied by Phil Wiggins on harmonica. The musicians were recommended by Richard K. Spottswood, who was working at the Library as a consultant on a 15-record series, *Folk Music in America*. The record project was one of several initiatives at the Library celebrating the U.S. bicentennial.

Enthusiasm for the concert led Alan Jabbour to consider an annual series. He thought it would attract public recognition of the new center, make an immediate contribution to its home institution and create a presence visible to Congress across the street. How to arrange for a six-concert season seemed daunting at first, but that problem was solved by enlisting the aid of another Washington folklore institution, one that had been around almost as long as the Archive of Folk Culture—the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA).

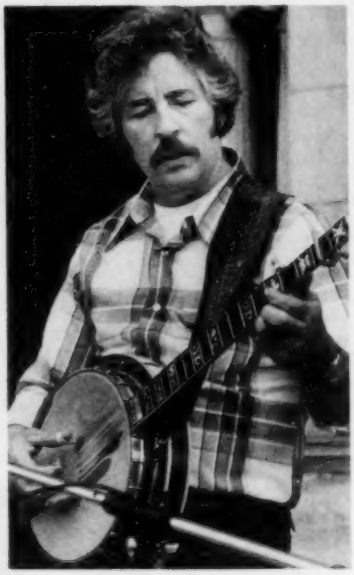
The NCTA was founded in 1933 as the National Folk Festival Association. A private nonprofit organization, the NCTA presents the National Folk Festival each year and provides technical and content assistance for many folk arts presentations. Mr. Jabbour worked out an arrangement with council Director Joe Wilson to do the bookings for the Neptune Plaza Concert Series, and a full program was arranged for the 1977 season.

The Hungarian folk group Életfa came to the Neptune Plaza June 21, 1990. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

The first concert in the series was held April 25, 1977, and featured the Blue Grass Cardinals. Like the previous year's concert, it too was a "picnic," with balloons, popcorn and hot dogs. The program was also billed as a 177th birthday party for the Library of Congress (one day belated, so as to accommodate the schedules of the Librarian and Deputy Librarian), and included a large cake. The Library was founded April 24, 1800, when President John Adams signed a bill appropriating $5,000 "for the purchase of such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress."

Once NCTA identified and contracted with the performing groups, producing the Neptune Plaza Series required cooperation, coordination and luck. Brett Topping (now director of publications at the National Museum of Women in the Arts) was the first AFC staff member to take charge of the Neptune Plaza concerts. "The series improved as more staff members participated and helped to work out problems," she remembers. Reference librarian Gerald Parsons was one of several to urge that the bands be positioned on the plaza itself, rather than above it, so that the steps in front of the building might be used for seating the audience. There was resistance from those who said that setting up the sound system would be more difficult, but eventually the idea prevailed.

"Since there was little publicity at first, Capitol Hill tourists and Library staff and visitors who happened by were often puzzled as to what was going on," said Ms. Topping. "So we decided to write program notes and distribute them at the concerts." Michael Licht (now the folklorist for the District of Columbia) was working at the Folklife Center as a consultant at the time, and he wrote the first ones. Such an educational effort recalls Music Division chief Carl Engel's desire to make the Library a place where music could be studied.



Don Parmley of the Bluegrass Cardinals, April 25, 1977, the debut of the AFC concert series; Henry Sapoznick (left) and Klezmer Plus, May 27, 1990; inclement weather forced the concert indoors.

Ms. Topping remembers one concert that offered a lesson on current events as well as musical tradition. In April 1980 Fidel Castro gave permission for those wishing to leave Cuba to do so, and in fact emptied his prisons to free the island of "troublemakers." Many boats were sent by friends and relatives in Florida, and on April 21 the first of a "freedom flotilla" left the port of Mariel, Cuba, for Key West, Fla., 90 miles away. More than 100,000 refugees entered the United States that spring, causing a diplomatic and public relations nightmare for the Carter administration. The United States set up reception and relocation centers, and many refugees were sent to Fort Chaffee, Ark., where some were held indefinitely.

On Sept. 11, 1980, the scheduled concert series group was Las Estrellas del Son, Cuban and Dominican musicians, some born in the United States, others who had been here for 15 to 35 years. At Fort Chaffee, Robert Borrell had formed a Cuban band, and when he was released he journeyed to Washington to join friends who were members of Las Estrellas del Son. During intermission at the Neptune Plaza presentation, Mr. Borrell was asked to give the premier performance of his new band on the Library steps. The presentation included a song that had been composed in Arkansas about his experiences, "Somos Cubanos Libres" ("We Are Free Cubans") thus demonstrating the continuing and evolving nature of living folk traditions.

Magdalena Gilinsky Janotta, an immigrant from Poland, was in charge of the concert series from 1984 until she retired in 1990. Ms. Janotta worked to build good relations with the many people who helped with the series, and always saw to it that performers felt at home. She often brought bagels and coffee for the work crews who set up the stage and electrical equipment, and once cooked dinner for the

Hethu'shka (Warrior) Society from the Omaha Tribe in Macy, Neb. Ms. Janotta convinced many a tourist bus driver to turn off the air-conditioning system on his idle vehicle for the two hours of a concert, and she invited the sergeant-at-arms from the Capitol to one concert, to make him aware of the offending noise from lawn mowers operating on the Capitol grounds.

Surrounding street noise became especially troublesome when a local radio station decided to broadcast the series. The concerts were recorded from the start, and the recordings added to the collections of the Folk Archive. In 1988 the center entered into an agreement with a local Washington radio station to broadcast the concerts live. Today the concerts are recorded for later broadcast on "The Dick Spottswood Show," so that they can be edited for the radio presentation. Mr. Spottswood interviews the musicians at the concert and offers commentary.

Since the Neptune Plaza Concert Series began in 1977, it has relied on many advisers to guide the selection of musicians. The NCTA no longer handles the bookings for the series, and Ms. Caemmerer consults with a variety of Washington-area experts: radio host Dick Spottswood; Dan Sheehy, director of the Folk Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts; Lee Michael Dempsey, bluegrass specialist; Nick Spitzer, a folklorist often featured on National Public Radio; Joe Wilson, director of the National Council on the Traditional Arts; Michael Licht, the District of Columbia folklorist; and staff members at the Smithsonian Institution and the Folklife Center.

Roberto Batista dances a "columbia" with Roberto Borrell y su Kubatá, which performed during intermission of the Sept. 11, 1980, concert featuring Las Estrellas del Son.

When Edwin Colón Zayas y su Taller Campesino took the stage on last April 23 to present traditional string music from Puerto Rico (introduced by Dan Sheehy), the group inaugurated the 15th season of the Neptune Plaza Concert Series. The group joined a company of folk musicians whose performances at the Library began more than 50 years ago. In the '30s and '40s, American folk music may have meant Negro blues and spirituals, New England and Appalachian ballads. Today the American Folklife Center extends its purview to embrace a far greater diversity of cultural expression. The success of the Neptune Plaza Concert Series continues to depend on one central impulse, the devotion of many persons to the varied folk traditions in this land of many musics.

James Hardin is in charge of publications and public information for the American Folklife Center.

LC in the News

☐ The recent discovery of Houdini material brought special attention to an LC librarian. The May 25 *New York Times* reported that "a professor and a librarian have performed the astonishing act of phenomenal prestidigitation, hitherto unimaginable, right before the very eyes of the startled onlookers: they have made the works of the amazing Houdini reappear."

"They had effectively disappeared," said Joan Higbee, a specialist in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Dr. Higbee discovered that 39 boxes of the Houdini bequest were not where they were supposed to be, and no one could remember seeing them (see LC *Information Bulletin*, June 15). Then, after a two-month search, she found a "list dated Aug. 9–29, 1979," about some bound periodicals from the Houdini collection that had been sent to the Library's warehouse in Landover, Md. In the discovered trove are 3,988 items, including letters, materials on how his tricks worked, papers on spiritualism, rare books, catalogs and posters—in short, exactly what Kenneth Silver-

Local History and Genealogy Gift Fund Established

Marguerite S. Roll, a member of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board and member of the Library's James Madison Council, has established a Local History and Genealogy Gift Fund in the Library of Congress.

Ms. Roll has done extensive genealogical research in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room and has made a generous contribution to enhance the work there. Among the activities supported by the gift fund are special acquisitions, particularly retrospective purchases, special projects such as preserving and restoring items in the collections, promotional materials explaining the resources of the room, public programs and special programs for staff development.

The collections in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room, which was opened in 1935, are among the most heavily used in the Library. Reference librarians provide an introduction to genealogical research in the room, assistance in identifying source materials, help in devising research strategies and referrals to other institutions. Staff members also publish bibliographies and finding aids to assist readers.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington commented that the establishment of a Local History and Genealogy Gift Fund is a welcomed acknowledgment of the importance of genealogical materials to readers. Moreover, he said, the gift fund is a sign of the dedication of the Local History and Genealogy staff in advancing the collections and serving the public.

Those who are interested in supporting the gift fund may do so by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Library of Congress, designating the donation for the Local History and Genealogy Gift Fund.

LC in the News *(Cont. from p. 285)*

man of New York University and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer needed for a book on Houdini.

Dr. Higbee has since traveled to Appleton, Wis., which Houdini claimed as his hometown, to look at the collection in the Houdini Center of the Outagamie Museum and to learn more about Houdini. "I can't believe that I wasn't interested [in magic or Houdini] before," she told the *Wisconsin Post Cresent*. "Houdini was such an eclectic person. He was someone who broke through barriers. It is the process of continually breaking through these barriers that is so absolutely fascinating."

☐ The library community as well as the general media have noted LC's moves to boost its security. *American Libraries* May 1992 reported that as a result of two court sentences being handed down and new charges filed in another case of theft, the Library has launched a new campaign to secure the collections by restricting access to materials and stacks and by installing security checkpoint devices at all building exits.

Dr. Billington told the *Washington Post* March 29, "Nobody really knows how bad the problem is, but we're not going to wait to find out. Even a small amount is just intolerable. In many cases we have the only copy there is. Anything that's lost is a national tragedy."

☐ *Information Today: The Newspaper for Users and Producers of Electronic Information Services* reported the April 1 opening of the National Demonstration Laboratory (NDL) at the Library. According to the May 1992 issue, "The NDL holds forth the promise of connecting the treasures of the collection of the LC to the country and indeed, the world, and making them available through interactive technology." The objective of the laboratory demos is to give users several ways to evaluate what they see; for example, the utility and benefits of a system.

The NDL, founded in February 1987, was first located in the Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. "The move in April 1992 to the Library links the intellectual resources of the world's largest library to some of today's most powerful tools for the dissemination of information and knowledge."

☐ The May 17 *Washington Times* highlighted the recent presentation of the Bob Fosse/Gwen Verdon Collection to the Library. It is a treasure trove of memorabilia and other items spanning her career and that of her late husband, choreographer and director Bob Fosse. "I mean, they've [directors, choreographers] just got to start thinking and coming up with their own ideas, and I think this will establish that people did do that at one time. And if you don't believe it, come to the Library and see for yourself," said Ms. Verdon. The collection includes choreographies, films, videotapes, sound recordings, posters, photographs and other production materials, including set designs and models.

In the May 7 *Arizona Daily Star* Dr. Billington called Verdon's donation "a generous gift which substantially enhances" the institution's collection of music and dance history.

—Lucy D. Suddreth

Far Eastern Law Division Organizes Chinese Law Conference

The Conference on Contemporary Chinese Law with an Emphasis on Taiwan, the first of its kind to take place at the Library of Congress, was held April 3.

Made possible by a grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, the all-day seminar focused on political-legal developments in Taiwan. The event was organized by Tao-Tai Hsia, chief of the Law Library's Far Eastern Law Division, and division legal analysts Wendy Zeldin and Constance A. Johnson. The Far Eastern Law Division is one of five foreign law divisions of the Law Library, the foreign law research arm of Congress.

At a luncheon for invited guests, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) outlined the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, a bill whose purpose, according to cosponsor Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), is "to establish a legal framework for our relations with Hong Kong after June 30, 1997, and to encourage additional official and private contacts before and after that time."

Rep. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) also addressed the capacity crowd, offering several insights on Taiwan's continuing efforts at democratization in the context of its recent prosperity.

Distinguished speakers from the United States as well as abroad took part in three panels: a round table on democratization and constitutional reform in Taiwan, a round table on legal and political aspects of reunification of China and a panel on civil and economic laws of the Republic of China on Taiwan. In the past decade, Taiwan has become an important economic power, one of the four "mini-dragons" of Asia. The nation has also been undergoing significant social change. For example there have been increasing opportunities for citizens to participate in democratic processes such as peaceful demonstrations and multiparty

During the afternoon of April 3, a "Round Table on Legal and Political Aspects of Reunification" was held. Those attending included (from left) Shao-chuan Leng of the University of Virginia, Winberg Chai of the Center for International Programs at the University of Wyoming, Richard Chu of Rochester Institute of Technology and James Feinerman of Georgetown University Law Center; Sen. McConnell explains the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, while (from left) Shao-chuan Leng; William Alford of Harvard Law School; and Margaret Whitlock, director of Law Library Operations, listen. *Photos by Reid Baker*

International Activity Related to Blind Library Service

Three major issues for future collaboration and development were established at an international meeting of some of the principal national agencies serving blind and visually impaired persons in Dublin, Ireland, April 27–29, 1992.

Participants represented the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) in the United Kingdom and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library of Congress.

Audio Technology. John Cookson of NLS was commended for his paper "Technology Assessment and Research Program," which was the basis for discussion of the concept of a digitally based talking-book machine. The group agreed that a common format for the international exchange of information was necessary. Digital rather than analog recording of books and information will provide flexibility to allow each institution to cope with present and future complexity and variety of formats and equipment.

Participants agreed that an immediate endorsement of any current technology would be premature, as it is unclear which technology will eventually dominate the marketplace. The next few years will be important in determining the requirements for a talking-book machine and for addressing commitment to change among those supplying equipment and among institutions with significant capital investments in current and potentially new technology.

Research will continue over the next five years to confirm technology that is appropriate in a collaborative and open environment among the participating countries. Internet, the international electronic communication system widely used by the academic, industrial and governmental research community, was agreed upon as a way of directly sharing ideas and initiatives and securing continuing communication among the participating institutions.

Two efforts will support further exploration and evolution of the appropriate technology: (1) The Royal National Institute for the Blind's parallel investigations into CDI and CD-ROM, and (2) the Library of Congress initiative in recording and indexing of information in digital format.

Developments in Services. Representatives of each agency reported new trends and directions. All agreed that closer working relationships have become necessary with other libraries, particularly public libraries, to meet the changing requirements for information service, to cope with growth and volume, and to assure the best access to available resources.

Both the CNIB and RNIB are examining new circulation and bibliographic systems to replace and upgrade existing ones. CNIB will provide a copy of its Systems Review strategy and functional specifications documents to the RNIB and any other interested organization.

International Data Base. Representatives agreed that the international data base formatted in the existing Library of Congress MARC record is a necessary and essential resource for locating and sharing material. The RNIB is now prepared to supply copies of its bibliographic records to the Library of Congress for inclusion in this data base. Participating libraries will, at best, provide records through their respective national libraries to avoid duplication of effort and ensure consistency. The data base will be made available for sale to public and academic libraries, as well as to eligible individuals.

Communication. The immediate future will find all agencies exploring the possibility of developing a common audio interchange format for existing materials.

It is hoped that meetings will be held once every two years. Toronto will be the site of the 1994 meeting.

Law Conference *(Cont. from p. 287)* elections. Nearly all of the democratization round table participants were observers at Taiwan's December 1991 elections, and while they generally agreed that the elections were the most democratic to date, they differed on the extent to which the government has instituted fundamental political change thus far and the reforms it has yet to achieve.

The speakers at the round table on reunification presented a multifaceted view of the current situation; some gave useful background information on the kinds of ties established thus far; others attempted to touch on U.S. policy concerns, while still others ventured to look into the future of Taiwan-China relations.

Finally, the panel on civil and economic laws offered an in-depth look at three aspects of the law of Taiwan—civil code, commercial arbitration and the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, and intellectual property laws—that have important implications for U.S.-Taiwan relations and for Taiwan's entry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The conference attracted congressional staffers, Library of Congress staff from many divisions, and members of the legal, scholarly and diplomatic communities.

Award-Winning Science Fiction Editor Speaks at LC:
Lecture Is Third in Scholarly Trends Series

The genre of science fiction was born in the United States. Although science fiction has become an important, popular literary form around the world, American writers still dominate the field. Its spirit of taking on the future with critical optimism comes from deep within the American experience. The genre presents powerful ideas and a vocabulary for dealing with what is happening to the world we live in as well as the possible turns it may take. At its best, SF is a literature of ideas. The Library has decided to take a closer look at this unique child of our popular culture as well as its large and distinctive subculture. Science fiction is a new field for scholarly study, and this is an exciting time for those who are learning how to document and understand it. The Library of Congress, we hope, will have an important role in the encouragement of science fiction studies.

—Joseph T. Mayhew,
Recommending Officer, Science Fiction

David G. Hartwell, one of the most respected scholars in the new science fiction field, told an audience May 5 that "Science fiction was invented by Hugo Gernsback in April 1926."

Dr. Hartwell said he is aware of the many "scientific romances" written long before Gernsback put out his first issue of *Amazing Stories*. Scientific romance writers, such as Lucian of Samosata, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Edgar Allan Poe, Jules Verne and H.G. Welles, were not writing for the science fiction genre, Dr. Hartwell said.

Although scientific romances are the source of much of what became the genre science fiction, Gernsback deliberately focused a new self-conscious direction in publishing, Dr. Hartwell said. Gernsback coined the term "scientifiction" to define his new field. The term changed to science fiction as Gernsback's genre took hold.

Scholarly interest and serious academic research in SF (those in the field

David Hartwell

prefer that abbreviation to Sci Fi), only go back to the 1960s. Dr. Hartwell noted that literature tended to be taught by modernists who distinguished between high and low art. SF, as low art, was unworthy of serious consideration.

"But now, the trend is changing," Dr. Hartwell said. "The postmodernists are attacking this distinction."

As a result, there is more academic interest in popular culture and its literature. More universities are offering programs in SF, and their libraries are making greater efforts to collect it.

Until recently, the bibliographic and critical work in the field of SF was being written and published outside the academic and literary establishment. Most important SF critiques have appeared in amateur publications called "fanzines."

Dr. Hartwell encouraged libraries to collect and preserve these publications—an endangered species. Devoted amateurs produced fanzines in small runs in ditto, hectograph and mimeograph formats from the 1920s through the 1960s. Many major writers appeared regularly in these small magazines. The increasing use of electronic communications has drastically reduced the number of these publications, and large collections now in private hands are starting to be broken up.

SF readers tend to be collectors. Dr. Hartwell estimates his own SF library has 12,500 items. According to Dr. Hartwell, the lists of "classic" science fiction are always changing.

Dr. Hartwell offered a list of "classic" reference tools that the student of SF should have: Neil Barron's *Anatomy of Wonder* and Peter Nicholls's *Science Fiction Encyclopedia*. He recommends that anyone who needs to know what is going on in the field subscribe to *Locus*, SF's trade journal.

SF has outgrown its reputation as entertainment for males, he said. Dr. Hartwell noted that since the '60s many of the genre's most successful writers have been women. Ursula LeGuin, Alice Sheldon (under several pen names), Joanna Russ, and C.J. Cherryh have enriched SF with strong female characters.

After the seminar, Dr. Hartwell participated in a round table with a small group of librarians with professional interest in SF, as well as an astrophysicist, Yoji Kondo of NASA, who, as "Eric Kotani," is an SF author.

"In Japan, SF is not considered low art, but as respectable literature. Several of my scientist friends admit that SF influenced their career choices," Mr. Kondo said.

David G. Hartwell was one of the first editors hired to work exclusively in science fiction. It was his deliberate choice to work in SF as an editor, rather than as a writer. His doctoral dissertation at Harvard was the editing of a scholarly edition of a little-known work by the English medieval writer William Langland, author of *Piers Ploughman*.

Dr. Hartwell appeared at LC in the third and final seminar in a series on research trends and library resources cosponsored by the Collections Development Office and the Office of Scholarly Programs.

—Sirikanya B. Schaeffer

LC Achieves Cataloging Milestones

Two milestones in cooperative cataloging were achieved at the Library of Congress during 1991. Princeton University library staff contributed the 500,000th name authority record on Oct. 17, and the U.S. Government Printing Office Library (GPO) staff contributed the 100,000th bibliographic record on May 15. These records were added to the Library's on-line catalog through the National Coordinated Cataloging Operations (NACO) in the Descriptive Cataloging Division and Cooperative Subject Cataloging Projects (CSCP) in the Subject Cataloging Division.

Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Collections Services, presented Rhoda Kesselman, Princeton's authorities coordinator, and Laurie Beyer Hall, chief of GPO's Cataloging Branch, with certificates of appreciation commemorating these contributions on Jan. 26, 1992, at the LC/NACO Participants Discussion Group Meeting at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio. Mr. Tabb explained that these milestone records symbolize the joint achievement of cooperating institutions including federal, state, university and special libraries and the Library of Congress.

Rhoda Kesselman (second from left), Princeton University Library's authorities coordinator, is presented with a certificate of appreciation by Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Collections Services, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Also at the ceremony were Suzanne Liggett, NACO coordinator, and John Byrum, chief of Descriptive Cataloging.

GPO submitted the first name authority record in 1977, and since then more than 70 libraries have contributed bibliographic and authority records that are used by LC and libraries throughout the country. Sharing resources enables the nation's libraries to increase the total number of books cataloged, improve the timeliness of catalog records, reduce costs and avoid duplication of effort.

Commemorative bookmarks with the slogan "Cooperation, You Make It Happen" were created to mark the occasion. These are a gesture of appreciation to the staff at all the institutions participating in cooperative projects throughout the years.

MEETINGS

LC NACO Participants Meeting/ALA Midwinter Meeting

John Byrum, chief, Descriptive and Subject Cataloging Divisions, opened the Jan. 26, 1992, meeting by introducing the associate librarian for Collections Services, Winston Tabb, who outlined his plan to develop an agenda by listening to the voice of the library community as a whole. He asked for suggestions and ideas and even complaints to help guide the future. Mr. Tabb then presented certificates of appreciation to representatives from the libraries that had produced the 500,000th authority record (Princeton University Library) and the 100,000th bibliographic record (U.S. Government Printing Office Library) contributed under the current cooperative cataloging projects. He emphasized that the actual recipients were accidental, symbols of the work done by all participants.

Suzanne Liggett, coordinator of national cooperative cataloging projects, added her note of thanks to all participants for all of their efforts over the years.

NACO has added three new participants: the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries and Oberlin College.

In the late summer the National Agricultural Library began using LSP in the OCLC environment for all of its NACO authority work, and about the same time, the National Library of Medicine began to use OCLC to make changes to the

authority data base via LSP.

Through the end of December NACO statistics show a total of 512,000 new name and series authorities contributed through NACO, and 105,000 bibliographic records. One library withdrew from the project as a result of a continuing inability to contribute records.

Sherry Kelley, an assistant coordinator in NACO's sister organization, Cooperative Subject Cataloging Projects (CSCP), reviewed its current activities. CSCP continues to expand its programs and add to the number of libraries contributing subject heading proposals for LCSH. The Philadelphia Authority File Cooperative is a new contributor. Subject aspects of cooperation continue to be a priority, and all NACO and CONSER libraries are urged to join in projects to submit subject heading proposals. Statistics for the first quarter of 1992 show a total of 2,046 subject headings and 1,736 classification numbers established through cooperative projects to date.

OCLC and the Library are conducting a pilot project through July 1992 to test the feasibility of enhancing records for individual works of fiction, drama, poetry, humor and folklore through the assignment of subject headings for characters, setting, topics, form and genre. Some 500 records have been enriched by eight participating libraries: Columbus Metropolitan Library; Cleveland Public; St. Louis Public; Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Illinois; Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library; Bowling Green State University; Fondren Library at Southern Methodist University; and Thomas Cooper Library at the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Byrum provided an update on the National Coordinated Cataloging Program (NCCP). Production of full bibliographic records has passed the 18,000 mark, and changes are being implemented to allow participants to increase the number of records contributed and at the same time to reduce costs. The most significant change is that once a participant is competent in one area, the participant will make decisions as to which areas and languages to submit contributions. The fully trained participants will also assume responsibility for the accuracy of the record.

One of the original participants, the University of Illinois, has withdrawn from NCCP. LC plans to add three or four new participants.

Sally McCallum, chief, Network Development and MARC Standards Office, reviewed some of the technical aspects of NCCP. LC is changing its terminals from the Comterm to a new PC-based bibliographic workstation. These will be used by NCCP participants via Internet. This will decrease communications costs and allow local repair of equipment. The new equipment has potential for an improved user interface and already includes a "cut and paste" feature, multiple sessions and a macro capability.

CNLIA Semiannual Meeting

The Council of National Library and Information Associations (CNLIA) held its semiannual meeting at the 60 East Club in New York City on May 1, 1992.

This being the 50th anniversary of its founding, a brief history of its accomplishments was inserted by Rep. Major R. Owens in the *Congressional Record* on April 10, 1992. A more detailed booklet is being planned. Among its achievements are the initiatives that resulted in the issuance of the *Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information* and the establishment of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), formerly the Z39 Committee of the American National Standards Institute, which among other projects developed the ISBN and ISSN numbers used throughout the world.

A current interest is a survey of member organizations regarding their conference and convention planning. A useful summary was submitted at this meeting, indicating such matters as relative lead time for planning, favorite convention sites and the use of volunteers and professionals in arranging the meetings, all broken down by size of organization. A *Calendar of Meetings of Library and Information-Related Organizations, 1992–1996* has also been prepared.

The program, "Library Education for the 21st Century, Projections and Perspectives from Library and Information Science Educators and Employers," was presented by a panel of four speakers. James Matarazzo of the Graduate School of Library Science at Simmons College, Boston, stressed the need of schools to serve the needs of special librarianship. Barbra Higginbotham, director of Brooklyn College Libraries, discussed the problem of assets vs. access in library service: To what extent should acquisition shortchange the user's requirement for detailed cataloging to retrieve the desired information?

Tom Fearon, assistant vice president of technical services and systems at Shearson Lehman Libraries in New York, asserted that in a business library business knowledge is required and reference and cataloging skills should be integrated. Marianne Cooper, director of the Graduate School of Library Science, CUNY, Queens College, maintained that library training must be flexible to meet the changing needs. A feature in her school's training is an internship program for each student and the fulfillment of a special project as part of the graduation requirement.

Theodore Wiener, Judaica cataloger, Subject Cataloging Division, attended as councilor for the Association of Jewish Libraries.

(Cont. on p. 299)

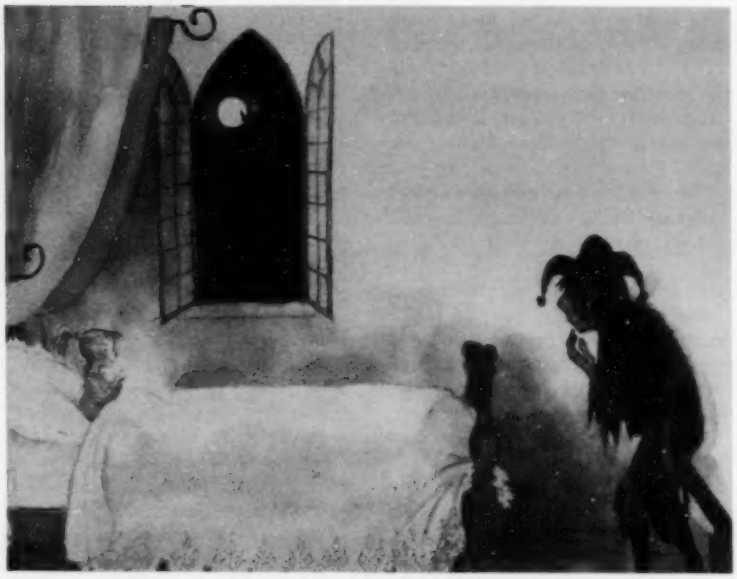
International Children's Book Day Held at LC

The Children's Literature Center in the Library of Congress hosted on May 8 its fifth celebration of International Children's Book Day.

The event, funded by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, honored the work of distinguished illustrator and author Marc Simont. The 140 individuals who attended the lecture were charmed by Mr. Simont's witticisms.

Mr. Simont's best known work includes his illustrations for Janice Udry's *A Tree Is Nice*, for which he received the 1957 Caldecott Medal; illustrations for Karla Kuskin's *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed* (1982) and for James Thurber's *Many Moons* (1990).

Martin Pope, president of the Keats Foundation, gave Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center, an original, full-color collage to display in the center.



Marc Simont (left); his illustration for *Many Moons* by James Thurber; Sybille Jagusch discusses the work of the Keats Foundation with Martin Pope during the May 8 reception. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Copyright Office Supports Digital Audio Taping Act

Endorsing the Audio Home Recording Act at a House hearing on Feb. 19, Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman predicted that, if the bill becomes law, the big winner will be the American people.

In recommending "swift favorable action by Congress," the Register testified that the bill would have "a positive impact on protection for American consumers and copyright owners worldwide. Many of the countries that collect royalties distribute them to foreign authors only on the basis of reciprocity. American authors, now out in the cold, will claim their fair share abroad."

Almost everyone in the Rayburn Building hearing room who heard the dramatic improvement in sound quality as a technician played a piece of classical music, then a Barry Manilow song, first on an analog tape recorder, next on a compact disc player and finally on a digital audio tape (DAT) recorder, seemed to agree that DAT is just what the Register described: "extraordinary technology."

DAT recorders have the sound quality of a CD, but unlike CDs, allow copying. Compact disc copies of a CD cannot be made, but one can make endless perfect DAT copies of a DAT tape. Therein lies the problem for the recording industry. Home tapers could go wild, making copy after perfect copy without a cent going to copyright owners.

The Audio Home Recording Act provides two solutions. First, the bill mandates that a technological feature, the serial copy management system (SCMS), be incorporated in the DAT hardware and, second, it imposes a royalty on DAT recorders and blank DAT tapes. The SCMS would not allow copies to be made of copies of DAT tapes. The SCMS provision would apply only to digital, not analog, audio recorders and only to blank digital audio recording media.

Both Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman (right) and singer Barry Manilow testified in support of a bill that would impose a royalty on digital audio tape recorders and blank tapes. *Photos by Reid Baker*

Royalty payments of 2 percent for digital audio recorders and 3 percent for blank digital audiotape would be imposed. The Copyright Office would administer the fund and the Copyright Royalty Tribunal would distribute the royalties to claimants.

Under the bill, legal actions for copyright infringement based on private, noncommercial audio recording of either digital or analog phonorecords would be prohibited.

In his opening remarks, Rep. William Hughes (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Intellectual Property and Judicial Administration, said that the bill, H.R. 3204, will protect the rights of copyright owners and will facilitate the introduction of advanced technology.

Wearing a charcoal suit, a purple turtleneck, eyeglasses that recalled those of John Lennon and highlighted locks similar to Rod Stewart's, singer and songwriter Barry Manilow ("Mandy," "I Write the Songs") testified in support of the bill. After photographers had shot Manilow from every angle, the pop star told the subcommittee that home copying threatens the livelihood of members of his profession. He concurred that DAT "sounds extraordinary."

Other witnesses were quick to praise the Home Audio Recording Act and to predict great success for DAT.

"The digital revolution is upon us and we better get ready," warned Joseph Smith, president and chief executive officer of Capitol EMI Music Inc.

He explained that 85 percent of pop releases and 95 percent of classical releases do not recover costs and that the record companies invest profits from successful releases into new artists. When prerecorded DAT tapes are released, sales should increase and "give our business a much-needed shot in the arm."

John Roach, president and chairman of the board of the Tandy Corp., predicted that the bill and the resulting demand for DAT recorders

will create manufacturing jobs in Texas and California and other jobs in every state where Tandy has stores.

Stanson Nimiroski, manager of a Sony Music plant in Pitman, N.J., told the subcommittee that each instance of home taping means one less unit manufactured at his plant. Fifty million CDs were manufactured at Pitman in 1991 by 925 employees. If H.R. 3204 becomes law, "we will have more product to manufacture," he predicted.

Songwriter George David Weiss ("Can't Help Fallin' in Love," "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"), president of the Songwriters Guild of America, also endorsed the bill. Mr. Weiss also spoke for the Copyright Coalition (ASCAP, BMI, SESAC and other groups).

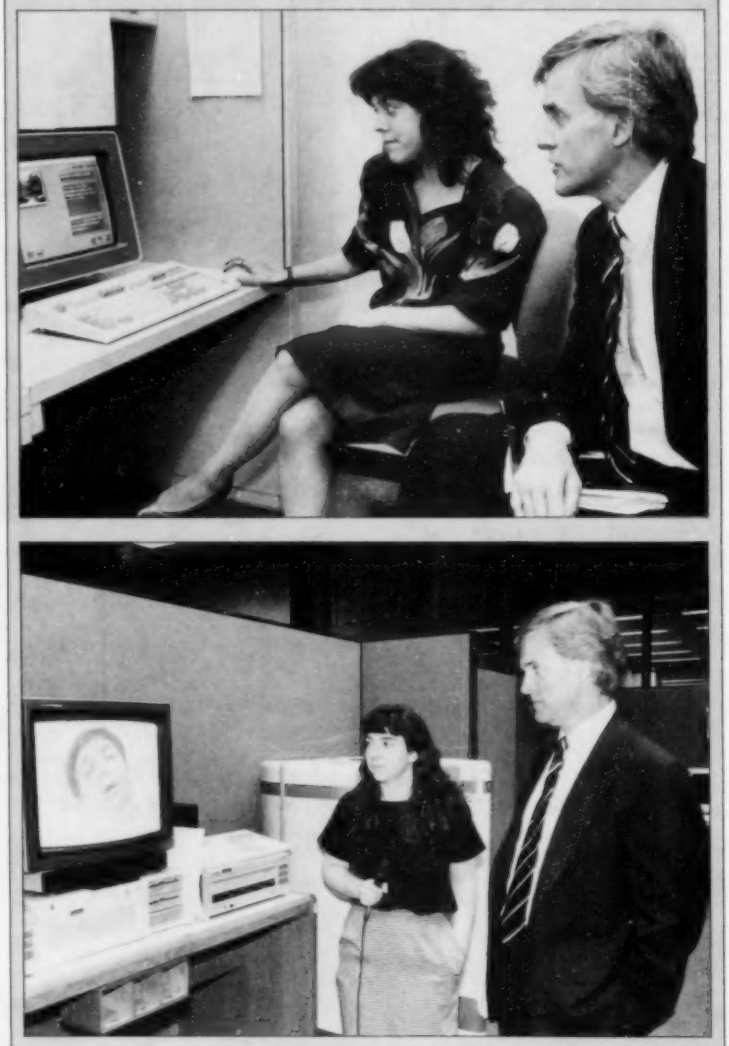
Although most witnesses enthusiastically supported the legislation, several did not.

Law Professor Jessica Litman from Wayne State Law School in Detroit objected to the bill for three reasons. She charged that H.R. 3204 is a "negotiated bill" that is both "numbingly specific" and "frustratingly vague" in different instances. Certain affected groups – among them "members of the general public who engage in home taping of recorded works" – were not consulted when the bill was drafted. Her third objection was that H.R. 3204 imposes 1991 technology standards on an evolving technology.

Wayne Green, publisher of *CD Review*, said there is no need for the legislation. "I am satisfied," he testified, "that we already have more than adequate copyright protection for our music," but he suggested that if the bill is enacted, Congress should make it self-funding. Green denied that home recording is a problem. He had only disdain for the SCMS, predicting that "10,000 hackers will figure it out."

As of April 6, H.R. 3204 is still pending in the subcommittee.

–Jim Rocca



A Dose of Technology: Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) gets a demonstration June 2 of LC's American Memory Project from Joanne Freeman. American Memory is a pilot that brings some of the Library's collections to users across the country via CD-ROM. Sen. Kerrey has taken a special interest in seeing LC collections more widely disseminated. Afterward, the senator visited the Madison Building's atrium, where the National Demonstration Laboratory for Interactive Information Technology is housed. Ellyn Blanton explained to Sen. Kerrey the operation of a voice-activated "video patient" that teaches students diagnostic techniques. *Photos by Reid Baker*

Law Library Specialist Travels to Warsaw

The Law Library's senior legal specialist for Polish law, Bozena Sarnecka-Crouch, has recently left LC to spend a year in Warsaw working as a Polish liaison of the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI).

CEELI is a project of the American Bar Association designed to support law reform in Eastern Europe. A premise of the project is that lasting economic and political reform is dependent on a functioning system of law and on adherence to the rule of law.

Over the course of the year, Ms. Sarnecka-Crouch will administer CEELI programs in the region and will serve as a "needs assessor," identifying how CEELI resources should be used to provide the best assistance in restructuring the Polish legal system during the country's political and economic transition. She will be working with the Polish Parliament, various law schools and government agencies.

As a CEELI liaison in Poland, Ms. Sarnecka-Crouch will be involved in American legal education and practice in helping to restructure the Polish legal system.

Ms. Sarnecka-Crouch is one of the Law Library's 30 foreign-trained lawyers whose primary responsibility is to do research and write about foreign law in response to questions from Congress. "I am happy that a member of our foreign legal specialist staff has been able to participate in the CEELI program," said Law Librarian M. Kathleen Price, "because it will be such a mutually beneficial experience. The Polish side will gain from Ms. Sarnecka-Crouch's legal expertise, and upon her return to the Library, the U.S. Congress will benefit, because Ms. Crouch will bring back the most up-to-date information on Polish legal developments and practice. These will be useful in answering congressional requests."

CEELI sponsors include the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. Information Agency, the ABA Section of International Law and Practice, and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Its cofounders are Talbot "Sandy" D. Alemberte and Homer E. Moyer Jr. The Executive Board of CEELI includes two judges, Sandra Day O'Connor of the U.S. Supreme Court and Abner J. Mikva, and two statesmen, Lloyd N. Cutler and Max M. Kampelman. CEELI's Advisory Board consists of other prominent law professors, judges and practicing attorneys.

Implementing various programs, CEELI makes U.S. legal experience and know-how available to emerging democracies. So far, CEELI has been involved in numerous activities in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. CEELI may also become involved in some projects in the former Soviet Union. Working through a network of volunteer lawyers, judges and law professors, CEELI provides a high level of expertise in the areas in which Eastern European countries request assistance.

In its work, CEELI follows three general principles. First, it is designed to focus on the needs and priorities of the Eastern European countries rather than on the needs of U.S. participants and sponsors. Second, it recognizes that U.S. legal expertise and traditions offer only one approach that participating countries might consider and that often they might prefer to follow the example of other, civil law countries. Third, CEELI is a *pro bono* service project, and it is not a means for developing business opportunities.

CEELI provides help to emerging democracies through various programs, such as:

☐ Holding technical legal assistance workshops that typically focus on a particular substantive area of the law and involve participation of four to six experts. So far, the workshops have concentrated on constitutional drafting, criminal law revision, judicial restructuring, establishing an independent judiciary, assisting administrative law reform, defining the relationship between the state and local governments, and encouraging bankruptcy reform. Workshops on judicial training and law faculty training are planned for the near future.

☐ Offering emergency legal consultations, which usually require a visit by a small delegation of legal experts or the circulation of Eastern European draft legislation among U.S. lawyers for comment. CEELI experts have already provided detailed analyses of drafts of the Albanian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian constitutions, as well as of various laws on the judicial system, trade unions, privatization, foreign investment, antitrust, intellectual property, housing, commerce and elections.

☐ Sponsoring resident legal experts or CEELI liaisons who stay in a host country for extended visits. Resident experts have been requested to provide legal advice on constitutional court reform, judicial reform, judicial training and other legal issues. So far, CEELI has had liaisons in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

☐ Establishing sister law school programs, which pair law schools in Eastern Europe with at least three American law schools to work on a continuing basis.

☐ Organizing legal exchange programs that provide internships for Eastern European lawyers in U.S. law firms, law schools, corporations, courts and government agencies.

Recently, CEELI and the World Bank completed a project incorporating law firm summaries and analyses of recent legislation on private sector development in Eastern Europe.

—*Natalie Gawdiak*

Van Duyn *(Cont. from p. 280)*
tions in addition to the major American literary prizes: the Pulitzer Prize (1991), the National Book Award, the Bollingen Prize (with Richard Wilbur), the $20,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant and the $25,000 Ruth Lilly Award. The Academy of American Poets named her a fellow in 1980 and one of its 12 chancellors in 1985. She is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. This summer in Las Vegas, she will receive the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement. She is married to Jarvis Thurston, professor emeritus of modern American and English literature at Washington University, and the couple are longtime residents of St. Louis. Ms. Van Duyn has participated several times in the Library of Congress literary series, most recently in April 1990.

Critic Joseph Parisi, editor of *Poetry* magazine, has said, "From the publication of her first book, her mastery of the art was immediately apparent—her subtle intelligence and formidable technical skill, her gift of humor and satire, her formal elegance, and especially her understanding of the vagaries and vulnerabilities of the human heart. We encounter a brilliant mind penetrating ever deeper beneath the surface to the core of feeling."

Background of the Laureateship. The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties required of the Poet Laureate, in order to afford each incumbent maximum freedom to work on his or her own projects while at the Library. Each brings a new emphasis to the position, which pays a stipend of $35,000. Allen Tate (1943–44), for example, served as editor of the Library's now-defunct *Quarterly Journal* during his tenure and edited the compilation *Sixty American Poets, 1896–1944*. Some consultants have suggested and chaired literary festivals and conferences; others have spoken at schools and universities and received the public in the Poetry Room.

During the year the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry opens the Library's literary season in October with a presentation and closes it in May with a reading or lecture. The consultant also presides at a number of other scheduled public literary programs at the Library.

Consultants in Poetry and Poets Laureate Consultants in Poetry and their terms of service follow:

- ☐ Joseph Auslander (1937–41)
- ☐ Allen Tate (1943–44)
- ☐ Robert Penn Warren (1944–45)
- ☐ Louise Bogan (1945–46)
- ☐ Karl Shapiro (1946–47)
- ☐ Robert Lowell (1947–48)
- ☐ Leonie Adams (1948–49)
- ☐ Elizabeth Bishop (1949–50)
- ☐ Conrad Aiken (1950-52); first to serve two terms
- ☐ William Carlos Williams; appointed in 1952 but did not serve
- ☐ Randall Jarrell (1956–58)
- ☐ Robert Frost (1958–59)
- ☐ Richard Eberhart (1959–61)
- ☐ Louis Untermeyer (1961–63)
- ☐ Howard Nemerov (1963–64)
- ☐ Reed Whittemore (1964–65)
- ☐ Stephen Spender (1965–66)
- ☐ James Dickey (1966–68)
- ☐ William Jay Smith (1968–70)
- ☐ William Stafford (1970–71)
- ☐ Josephine Jacobsen (1971–73)
- ☐ Daniel Hoffmen (1973–74)
- ☐ Stanley Kunitz (1974–76)
- ☐ Robert Hayden (1976–78)
- ☐ William Meridith (1978–80)
- ☐ Maxine Kumin (1981–82)
- ☐ Anthony Hecht (1982–84)
- ☐ Robert Fitzgerald (1984–85); appointed and served in health-limited capacity, but did not come to LC
- ☐ Reed Whittemore (1984–85), interim consultant
- ☐ Gwendolyn Brooks (1985–86)
- ☐ Robert Penn Warren (1986–87); first to be designated Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry
- ☐ Richard Wilbur (1987–88)
- ☐ Howard Nemerov (1988–89)
- ☐ Mark Strand (1990–91)
- ☐ Joseph Brodsky (1991–92)

Birthstones

When I was young and we were poor
my mother showed me a ring some old
love gave her,
and said, "I'll have your birthstone set
in it."

And said, "Don't ever lose it. The jeweler
offered to sell me half-glass, half-emerald,
but I'm giving you the real jewel."

I wore it as if she had given me the world.
I had no notion what things cost.
I thought she'd love me if I could be
good at last,

but I never was. When I thought I knew
her face
I told her I realized that stone was glass.
She blushed, and said the jeweler must
have lied.

I looked in books to find out how to feel.
Then, holding them cheap, I tried an
exchange of rings.
My new one tested real.

And on I went, and learned to recognize
the faintest glimmer of pure green
in a hand's clasp, or a pair of eyes,

and out came carats of green from a
guarded mine
in grateful exchange, and back came
green in turn.
When I looked again I was grown,

and my fingers were decked with rings,
and still more green
exchanges came, and we dropped them
on the ground
as our hands filled and boxes filled,

and they roll and shine as far as I can
see.
Dazzled I walk the world my mother
gave me,
whose stony streets are paved with
emerald.

[1966]

—*From* Near Changes *by Mona Van Duyn (Knopf, 1990)*

'Opening Windows':
Archibald MacLeish Gets Acquainted with His Staff

The following is reprinted from the book Archibald MacLeish: An American Life *by Scott Donaldson, a Peter Davison Book, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Copyright 1992 by Scott Donaldson. Reprinted by permission. This is the fourth installment (See* LC Information Bulletin, *May 18, June 1 and June 15 for parts 1, 2 and 3.)*

From the Putnam administration MacLeish inherited two valuable lieutenants. Martin Roberts, who understood the labyrinthine ways of the LC as well as anyone, stayed on the job as chief assistant librarian. And the able and competent Henry Boudinot, who had been secretary to Putnam, assumed the same position with MacLeish. Within a week or so, however, Archie called down to personnel for a second secretary to handle the vast amount of correspondence. He wanted someone with a college education, who was also expert at typing and shorthand. Thursa Bakey, a 1938 graduate of American University assigned to the Copyright Office, met the specifications, and soon she started reducing the stack of mail from friends and job seekers, congressmen and librarians, people who wanted MacLeish to speak and people who wanted special attention from the LC. Thursa expected to stay only a few weeks. Instead she became MacLeish's trusted assistant for the next half-dozen years. No other person worked with him so long or so closely during his career in government.

At the beginning, Thursa was of two minds about being secretary to Archibald MacLeish. She certainly admired her boss, as did co-secretary Boudinot. "I would say we were in awe of him," she recalled. He was brilliant, with an unusual range of knowledge. He spoke eloquently, with an amazing command of the language. He was, they knew, a writer of renown. As a supervisor he was generous and understanding when they made mistakes. He showed an admirable sense of humor in response to Bakey's first goof, for example. She booked him into the Palmer House in Chicago, but the reservation was for the wrong night, and when he arrived the hotel was full. When he got back from his trip, MacLeish offered to enlighten his secretary about the latest fashions in ladies' hats. The hotel had put him up for the night in a millinery shop off the lobby.

Yet during the early days she often thought of resigning, for the workload was so heavy and incessant. MacLeish, she realized, "could do twice as much work as anyone else in half the time." Just when one pile of letters was cleared away, he would sail off on new projects. When he called her into the office, it was nearly always with five things to do rather than one. They scarcely had time for lunch; MacLeish often ordered in and continued working through the noon hour without interruption. When he had a speech or long report pending, he escaped to a study room on the top floor of the annex. When the White House called, he dropped everything and left. Invariably he would return to his desk from such absences with additional tasks that needed doing as soon as possible. MacLeish was, in short, "a glutton for work," and expected his associates to share his compulsion. In the end, it was only her conviction that she was "working for a very special person" that kept Thursa on the job.

Soon it was decided that Henry Boudinot would act as the librarian's official secretary and Thursa Bakey as his personal secretary. MacLeish called Thursa into his office to explain that he expected absolute discretion in handling such personal matters as social engagements and financial affairs. He was, as she put it, "a very private man." In her capacity as personal secretary, Thursa kept her boss's checkbook, arranged his travel and hotel accommodations, replied to invitations, organized official cocktail parties, reminded him of appointments with the dentist, passed on messages from Ada, and even saw to it that the laundry and dry cleaning were picked up—these in addition to the usual typing and filing and calendar keeping. "T Pls call the Star & ask how we can get a paper delivered" he asked her in one note. "We pay by the week. Little girls with apple cores in their chubby fists. Sometimes the paper comes. Most often it doesn't. I consider myself robbed!!!" Or "T: Will you figger this out & let me know what to do AMacL," to which Thursa replied, "Mr. M. The weight of your car is 3670 pounds. At .40 per hundred, the cost of the license is $14.68. This is what you paid last year. tmb" "Will you be working on your Annual Report while on vacation?" she queried. "Not if I can help it," he answered. "I'm going to lie in the dry grass on the highest hill & watch the hawks." A likely story, that!

Such were the standards of formality that secretary and boss remained "Miss Bakey" and "Mr. MacLeish" for two full years before she was persuaded to call him "Archie," and even then only outside the office. Nonetheless, she came to understand him well. "I knew what was going on; I knew how he worked; I knew when not to bother him; I knew his moods; I knew who his friends were; I knew what he liked to eat; I knew when to make

appointments for him and when to direct visitors elsewhere." No wonder that Archie eventually wrote of her, in an all purpose letter of recommendation, that she "exhibited qualities of intelligence, personality, tact, imagination, loyalty, skill and plain hard work, rare either in government or out of it."

One of MacLeish's idiosyncrasies, Thursa discovered, was that he insisted on absolute quiet. The librarian's office was large, bright, and decorated in the same Italianate style as the main halls: "a painted vault," Archie called it, with pillars supporting nothing and a domed ceiling where "nymphs, largely nude, [were] floating around." When visitors dropped by to see him, they were intercepted in the area outside by his secretaries. If excessive conversation then ensued, MacLeish would use the intercom to sing out, "Tell whoever is out there talking to go do it elsewhere." Eventually visitors were shunted across the hall to await appointments, and a heavy velvet curtain was installed within MacLeish's office to baffle the noise. So sensitive was Archie to harsh sounds that he and Ada moved from one side of Thirty-third Street in Georgetown to the other to avoid the cacophony made by the radios of police cars from the station around the corner.

Certain visitors, among them Carl Sandburg, were exempt from his insistence on noiseless surroundings. Sandburg burst in unannounced early in MacLeish's tenure, waving a burning cigar. He didn't say a word to Archie, didn't even look at him. Instead he walked slowly around the room, surveying the ornate surroundings. He went to the door, cleared his throat, and said, "Over the poet's cocoa was rococo," and walked out. The two poets were jointly involved in a mixup on November 30, 1939, when MacLeish drove Sandburg to the wrong building for his evening lecture appearance. They stepped outside the car to reconnoiter, and both men locked their doors behind them, leaving the car keys, Sandburg's guitar, and the copy of *The People, Yes* he planned to read from imprisoned inside. Then they sped their separate ways, Sandburg to the site of his appearance, MacLeish to get a duplicate set of keys in Georgetown. Archie liberated the car and delivered the guitar in time for Sandburg to finish his performance with "Frankie and Johnny" and an old slave song he'd learned from an ancient woman in South Carolina "with a face like a relief map of Asia." Sandburg like no one else managed to make MacLeish relax. "He was," Archie said, "a darling man."

Many well-known people paid calls on MacLeish as librarian of Congress, Thursa Bakey recalled. Among them were journalists Walter Lippmann and Raymond Gram Swing; radio commentator Edward R. Murrow; writers Lillian Hellman, Ernest Hemingway, Thornton Wilder, John Dos Passos, John Gunther, and Alexander Woollcott; magazine editors Freda Kirchwey, Edward Weeks, and Henry Seidel Canby; ballet impresario Lincoln Kirstein; sculptor Jo Davidson; philanthropist Lessing Rosenwald; Henry and Clare Booth Luce of Time Inc.; Charles Poore of the *New York Times* and Mrs. Ogden Reid of the *New York Herald Tribune;* Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, a frequent caller; and Gerald and Sara Murphy.

Other memorable visitors included Archie's mother and half-brother Bruce. They posed no threat to Archie's sensitive ears, sitting in total silence until he was free to see them. Seeking a degree of sociability, Thursa looked up and smiled at Martha Hillard MacLeish, who in response "dipped her head a quarter of an inch" but did not change expression. Very nearly her opposite was Archie's father-in-law, William Hitchcock, "a little dumpling of a man who strutted when he walked and led with his stomach." MacLeish and his father-in-law did not get on well. After one of his visits Archie told Thursa, "You know, it would never occur to that man that anyone else might go through a door first." The bouncy Billy Hitchcock fell fatally ill during the summer of 1940, leaving only child Ada with a substantial inheritance. In addition, by provisions of his will each of the three grandchildren received a bequest of $10,000 and Archie one of $1,000. MacLeish took that as a direct affront. As for his own finances, Archie was losing confidence in the leadership of Carson Pirie Scott, now that Bruce MacLeish was about to retire as president. In March 1940 he proposed to Lincoln and Mina Kirstein's father, Louis, the head of Filene's department store in Boston, that he investigate the possibility of buying out Carson Pirie Scott.

As librarian of Congress, MacLeish immediately differentiated himself from his venerated but haughty predecessor. On the afternoon of his first day on the job, he held an informal reception for his department heads. Shortly thereafter, he invited administrators to a cocktail party at his home in Georgetown. These gestures did not go unappreciated. Most of the staff knew the LC had become a stodgy institution, run much as it had been at the turn of the century. They were ready for a breath of fresh air, and MacLeish promised to open the windows. His lieutenants at once sensed his tremendous drive and his unusual personal qualities: "a first-rate mind, which absorbed and penetrated and understood; energies that could be at once exhausting, graceful and yet dynamic; marked powers of concentration and concern for rationalization; an insistence on definition; and a gift of expression beyond any similar gift they had ever known." Many were eager to serve at his side. "If Archie

PUBLICATION

Polish 'Services to the Nation' Is Now Available from LC

Available from the Public Affairs Office is a Polish version of the Library's "Services to the Nation" pamphlet.

"W Sluzbie Narodu" was prepared in the European Division by intern Halina Obadia, head of the Polish Service at the Bibliotheque Nationale, and Zbigniew Kantorosinski of the European Division.

The guide includes a brief history of the Library, a description of its facilities and a listing of the services offered by the Library of Congress to other libraries and individual readers.

The number of Poles, as well as other East Europeans, coming to the Library has increased since the introduction of democracy in their homeland. The new guide will help acquaint them with the Library's extensive resources.

The guide is dedicated to the memory of Ms. Obadia, who died last December in Paris.

Meetings *(Cont. from p. 291)*

☐ John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, represented the Library of Congress and American libraries on April 10 in Buenos Aires at the inauguration ceremony for the new building of the National Library of Argentina. While in Argentina, Dr. Cole also visited the Argentine Library of Congress, met with officials of the publishers association and presented a lecture, "The Book in the Electronic Age," which was cosponsored by the U.S. Information Service and the Argentine Library Association. On April 11, he was a speaker at the opening ceremony for USA Day at the Argentina National Book Fair.

☐ Maurvene Williams was featured speaker at the 11th annual meeting of the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries in Raleigh on April 11. The meeting also marked the inauguration of the North Carolina Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The North Carolina Center is cosponsored by the State Library and the Friends group and is planning several programs including a series of national issues forums and a North Carolina authors day.

☐ Dr. Cole represented the Library of Congress and the American Library Association on May 12 in Mexico City at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Benjamin Franklin Library, the first U.S. government-sponsored library outside the continental United States. In New York City on April 23, he was the master of ceremonies at a New York Arts Club event promoting "First Edition," a book show being developed for public television; Robert MacNeil, cohost of the MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour, was the guest of honor. Dr. Cole also is the author of two recent articles: "The U.S.'s Center for the Book: An Alliance Between Public and Private Interests," in Vol. 3, Issue 1 (1992) of *Logos: The Professional Journal of the Book World*, and "Promoting Books, Reading, and Book Culture: The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress," in *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, Vol. 49, Supplement 12 (1992).

MacLeish *(Cont. from p. 298)*

asked you to do a job," David Mearns said, "you'd do it happily if you had to work around the clock."

Within a week of assuming office, MacLeish looked in on every one of the library's divisions and departments, introducing himself and asking for cooperation. His very appearance proclaimed a new day dawning at the Library of Congress. "Goodness," Thursa Bakey thought when he came by the Copyright Office, "I never knew librarians were so handsome or dressed so well." Putnam came to work in a wing collar and a swallow-tail coat. MacLeish wore tweeds, soft collars, and bright ties. Whereas Putnam's office had been out of bounds to almost everyone, MacLeish announced that he would take time to talk to any employee who wished to see him. This was a mistake, for his days were soon occupied in listening to petty grievances. Boudinot and Bakey were forced to intervene, making appointments only for those few who had ideas about improving the library's services and referring the majority with personal complaints to their immediate supervisors. One such petitioner was the wife of a security guard who said her husband was meeting his girlfriend while on duty and wanted MacLeish to put a stop to it. Thursa suggested that she try to straighten the matter out with her husband, for approaching the librarian or even the captain of the security guards might well lead to her husband's dismissal. She did not pursue her complaint further. MacLeish's open-door policy did not please all of his officers, either. Luther Evans, who was eventually to succeed him as librarian of Congress, felt that Archie gave too much attention to malcontents, listening to rumors and criticism instead of giving his full support to responsible, highly placed administrators. If so, it may have been because of the personnel problems that confronted him during his first weeks at the LC. Some of those in high places, he discovered, were considerably less than responsible.

Next: Putting Out Fires

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